



# STATE HEALTH INFORMATION GUIDANCE

## SHARING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION IN CALIFORNIA



### WHAT IS THE SHIG?

Authoritative (but non-binding) guidance from the State of California on when, where, and why mental health and substance use disorder information can be exchanged.

### WHY IS THE SHIG NEEDED?

Confusion about existing laws, regulations, and statutes means many health care providers' default mode' is refusing to share patient health information. The appropriate and legal exchange of patient information between health care providers helps supports the triple aim – improving patient outcomes, improving overall patient satisfaction, and improving efficiency and reducing costs for organizations.

### WHO CAN USE THE SHIG?

The SHIG is broad in its scope, and is applicable to Physical Health Care Providers, Mental Health Care Providers, Substance Use Disorder Providers, Emergency Service Providers, Caregivers and Care Coordinators, Social Services, Law Enforcement, and Payers.

### HOW DOES THE SHIG WORK?

The SHIG uses 22 illustrated scenarios to simply and effectively communicate when and how appropriate health information may be exchanged. It is intended for a wide audience, and uses plain language to communicate, while citing and referencing specific statutes, laws, and regulations.

### WHY IS CALOHII QUALIFIED TO GIVE GUIDANCE?

CalOHII has statutory authority to interpret and clarify state law. It has created similar guidance for California State departments in the past, and has established connections with stakeholders all across the healthcare industry. It utilized these connections to research the issues at play, and to gather real-world user studies that guided the creation of the illustrative scenarios.

### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

You can attend an online webinar, or download the SHIG and associated resources online. For more information visit: [www.chhs.ca.gov/ohii/pages/shig.aspx](http://www.chhs.ca.gov/ohii/pages/shig.aspx)

## DOWNLOAD THE SHIG

[www.chhs.ca.gov/ohii/pages/shig.aspx](http://www.chhs.ca.gov/ohii/pages/shig.aspx)